



South Carolina

Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University
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Clemson University
SC State Climatology Office
Farm Service Agency



GENERAL

South Carolina experienced yet another week of unseasonably warm weather. The State hasn't seen a week of below normal temperatures since early July. With the exception of a few spotty locations, many areas have had very little rain for the month of September. The continued heat, coupled with dry weather have caused all crop and livestock conditions to decline for another week. Soil moisture conditions declined markedly this past week and were only reported at 44% very short, 44% short, and 12% adequate. There was a statewide average of 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork in South Carolina.

FIELD CROPS

CORN harvest has been ongoing, and unabated by the lack of wet weather. Ninety-three percent had been harvested, ahead of normal for this time of year. **COTTON** had nearly finished setting bolls and slightly more than two-thirds of the crop had open bolls. Cotton conditions declined and were 4% very poor, 15% poor, 26% fair, 50% good and 5% excellent. Fourteen percent of **PEANUTS** had been harvested. Some fields were harvested early, because of withering plants. Conditions also fell, and were reported at 1% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 58% good and 6% excellent. **SOYBEANS** have finished blooming, but plant development slowed without adequate moisture. A very promising crop a month ago is now experiencing stress and loss of yield potential. Ninety-three percent of the crop had set pods. Eighteen percent of the crop had turned color and 3% had dropped leaves. Like every other crop, soybean conditions also declined and were 8% very poor, 16% poor, 35% fair, 39% good and 2% excellent. The **TOBACCO** harvest neared completion. Fifty-nine percent of tobacco stalks had been destroyed. Armyworms were still a concern for **WINTER GRAZINGS**. Many farmers were waiting on rain before planting any more given the lack of soil moisture.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions fell and were 2% very poor, 7% poor, 32% fair, and 59% good. **PASTURE** conditions declined and were reportedly 14% very poor, 23% poor, 37% fair and 26% good. More producers are feeding hay, as their pastures are going dormant.

Crop Progress for Week Ending September 19, 2010

Crop and Stage	2010	2009	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2010	2009	5-Yr Avg
	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, Harvested	93	90	86	Soybeans, Pods Set	93	97	95
Cotton, Bolls Set	99	100	100	Soybeans, Turned Color	18	16	18
Cotton, Bolls Opened	68	72	61	Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	3	4	5
Cotton, Harvested	1	1	1	Tobacco, Harvested	98	99	98
Peanuts, Harvested	14	12	9	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	59	84	74
Soybeans, Bloomed	100	100	100	Winter Grazings, Planted	14	13	17

Condition for Week Ending September 19, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cotton	4	15	26	50	5	Peanuts	1	6	29	58	6
Livestock	2	7	32	59	0	Soybeans	8	16	35	39	2
Pasture	14	23	37	26	0						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending September 19, 2010

Arid, desert-like weather conditions were observed during the first half of the week. Chesnee cooled to 53 degrees on Monday morning. Anderson reported a relative humidity value of only 19 percent on Monday afternoon. At 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the Columbia Metro AP reported 94 degrees and a 16 percent relative humidity value. At 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, it was much the same in Florence with a temperature of 95 degrees and a relative humidity value of just 20 percent. The Wednesday morning low temperature of 58 degrees at Allendale was their lowest since May 20. The body of dry air allowed Saluda, Darlington and Lake City to reach a Wednesday afternoon high temperatures of 96 degrees. Southwest winds gusted to over 20 mph on Thursday ahead of an approaching front. Clemson, Clinton and the McEntire AP all recorded 95-degree high temperatures on Friday. Parts of Aiken County received relief to parched soils on Friday evening when localized showers brought rainfall amounts of up to 0.46 inches. Manning received 0.32 inches and Hartsville measured 0.26 inches. Table Rock cooled to 58 degrees on Sunday morning. Sunday’s 95 degrees at Givhans, Dillon and the Hamilton-Owens Airport in Columbia was 10 degrees above the date’s long-term average. The Monday through Sunday open pan evaporation water loss at the Clemson Sandhill Experiment Station totaled 2.09 inches. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was four degrees above normal.

The highest official temperature reported was 98 degrees at McCormick on September 17. The lowest official temperature reported was 50 degrees at Cedar Creek on September 14. The heaviest official 24-hour rain reported was 0.96 inches at the Charleston Airport on September 18. The state average rainfall for the period was 0.0 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 83 degrees, Charleston 81 degrees.
RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were below normal. Ocean water temperatures at the Johnny Mercer Pier, Wrightsville Beach, NC, were reported at 82 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2010	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.00	33.28	-3.0
Anderson	0.00	29.92	-4.5
Columbia	0.00	28.87	-9.0
Orangeburg	0.01	34.05	-3.8
Charlotte, NC	0.00	28.11	-3.8
Augusta, GA	0.01	23.70	-10.7
Florence	0.00	31.81	-2.8
N Myrtle Beach	0.00	28.76	-5.5
Charleston	0.96	47.03	6.4
Savannah, GA	0.06	31.38	-8.3

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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